

# Technology Roundtable – BPM and SOA

## Description

Practical applications and future needs for a business process driven service-oriented architecture.

## Definitions

### Business Process Management (BPM)

- ◆ The term BPM refers to activities performed by businesses to optimize and adapt their processes.
  - It is a process centric philosophy that provides for continuous process improvement
  - It is a business driven approach that controls the execution of the organization and facilitates who does what and when.
  - It provides the ability to model, automate and optimize the business processes that control the execution of the organization.
- ◆ The technology associated with BPM are the business process management suites.
  - These tools not only allow for the direct execution of the business processes, in addition, they can also monitor the execution of the business processes, providing managers of an organization with the means to analyze their performance and make changes to the original processes in real-time.

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## **Service Oriented Architecture (SOA)**

- ◆ Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) is an architectural style whose goal is to achieve loose coupling among interacting software agents.
  - A service is a unit of work done by a service provider to achieve desired end results for a service consumer.
  - Both provider and consumer are roles played by software agents on behalf of their owners.
- ◆ SOAs comprise loosely coupled, highly interoperable services.
  - These services interoperate based on a formal definition (or contract) which is independent from the underlying platform and programming language (e.g., Web Services Description Language).
  - The interface definition encapsulates (hides) the vendor and language-specific implementation. A SOA is independent of development technology (such as Java and .NET).
  - The software components become reusable because the interface is standards-compliant and is independent from the underlying implementation of the service logic.
- ◆ SOA provides a platform that bridges the business processes and the operational resources.

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## Questions

- ◆ Why SOA? Who is using SOA?
- ◆ What does SOA provide to an organization? Both from a business and IT perspective.
- ◆ Where is SOA being used in organizations today? Should SOA be applied to everything?
- ◆ Why BPM? Who is using BPM?
- ◆ What does BPM provide to an organization? Both from a business and IT perspective.
- ◆ Where is BPM being used in organizations today? Should BPM be applied to everything?
- ◆ Why BPM and SOA? What does the combination of BPM and SOA bring to the table? What is the relationship?
- ◆ Are the lines between BPM and SOA blurred? Can processes be services?
- ◆ Which leads BPM or SOA?
- ◆ Who is driving BPM or SOA?
- ◆ What is the future direction of BPM and SOA?